

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 11 June 2020

Stewards Panel: D Tyson (Chairman), L. Lord, H. Edgecombe

Name: Michael Guthrie

Track/Race: Track work Brighton area

Date: 26 June 2019

Rule no: ARR 139(1)(a)

Charge(s): The particulars of the charge are that prior to riding track work on the morning of June 26 2019 at the training establishment of licenced trainer Narelle Webberley a urine sample taken from Mr Guthrie had detected in it a banned substance.

Prohibited Substance: d-amphetamine and d-methamphetamine

Inquiry Decision: 12 Months disqualification to be back dated to 27 June 2019.

FACTS:

Mr Guthrie attended Mrs Webberley's property for the purposes of riding registered Thoroughbreds. Stewards were attending the property prior to his arrival and directed that he provide a urine sample. Mr Guthrie after some delay consented to provide a sample. This sample subsequently was found to contain the prohibited substances d-amphetamine and d-methamphetamine by Racing Analytical Services Limited and Mr Guthrie was notified. Mr Guthrie's licence suspension was then continued from his previous stand down on the 27th June 2019.

INQUIRY:

The facts relating to the RASL certificate and associated documentation were accepted by Mr Guthrie however the powers of the Stewards to take the sample were initially disputed. After an adjournment to seek advice Mr Guthrie then accepted these and did not contest the manner in which the sample was obtained. With the facts agreed upon the Stewards issued at charge to Mr Guthrie under ARR 139(1)(a) to which he pleaded guilty. After issuing the aforementioned penalty Mr Guthrie was advised of his right of appeal.

DECISION:

In arriving at the penalty of 12 months disqualification the Stewards considered the following:

- This was Mr Guthrie's 4th offence under this and related rules.
- This is his second offence for a substance of a serious nature.
- The need to ensure a safe workplace for all participants.
- The adverse effect on the image of racing from such cases.
- His guilty plea
- His efforts to seek drug related counselling.